

REMARKS

Claims 30-39 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claim 31 has been canceled and claim 30 has been amended. In the Office Action dated August 2, 2007, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show “reticles 118 and 119” (*Specification* p. 5, ln. 46). Claims 30 and 32-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,628,372 to McCullough et al. (“McCullough”). Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCullough in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,522,389 to Fujimoto (“Fujimoto”). Claim 31 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

With respect to the objections to the drawings, Applicants have amended paragraph 24 to refer to “reticles 140, 150,” rather than “reticles 118, 119,” rendering the objection to the drawings moot.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited references fail to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention. In particular, Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s characterization of McCulloch and Fujimoto with respect to individual limitations recited in the claims.

However, in order to expedite issuance of a patent, Applicants have incorporated the allowable subject matter of claim 31 into claim 30, rendering it and all claims depending therefrom allowable. Applicants amend claim 30 without any prejudice to the filing of a continuation application including non-amended claim 30 or any of its dependent claims.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard

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